

International Plant Sentinel Network

Taking Photographs for Diagnostic Purposes



Contents

| Slide title | Page |
|---------------------------|------|
| Introduction | 3 |
| The Ideal Submission | 4 |
| What to Take Pictures of | 5 |
| Light & Exposure | 6 |
| Focus, Background & Scale | 7 |
| Accompanying Text | 8 |
| Key Rules | 9 |
| More Information | 10 |

Introduction

- Pictures are a great way for diagnosticians to make initial assessments of samples.
- Photos will not be used to diagnose a plant pest or pathogen, instead they will be used to determine whether a physical sample is required for further investigation
- Feel free to use <u>smart phones</u>, <u>small cameras</u> etc. It will depend on what you are photographing (they are often not suitable for macro) but they usually give pretty good resolution

The Ideal Submission...

For the best chances of identification:

- Include 3 to 4 photographs; from diff distances, showing varying damage
- Be of good quality
- Be in-focus
- Be no larger that 1Mb
- Include text





Photos taken using a smart phone

What to Take Pictures of...

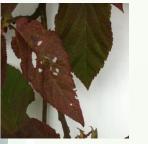
Take pictures representative of the problem





Damage and/or symptoms (the more detail the better)







Pests (when possible) or traces of pests





If roots are exposed, include pictures showing any damage/deformities

Light & Exposure



Light is important, try to take pictures in good light conditions considering:

- The intensity avoid extremes like shadows or over-exposure (as pictured left)
- The source/quality of light try different sources, e.g. natural or artificial light, use of the camera flash





Focus, Background & Scale



- Hold the camera steady, and get as close
 to the subject as possible whilst still being
 in focus
- Use contrasting backgrounds so detail can be seen clearly
- Use a familiar item to give an idea of scale





Accompanying Text

<u>ALWAYS</u> include text with photos detailing:

- Who took/sent the photographs, contact info
- What is the host, your main concern, the main symptoms
- When were the symptoms first observed
- Where vague description of surrounding environment including whether any other surrounding species show any symptoms
- How has the site been treated, has there been any dramatic changes in management, use of pesticides, fertilisers etc.

Key Rules

- Send 3 to 4 good, in focus, quality photographs, bearing in mind:
 - Light and exposure
 - Background and scale
- Photographs should depict damage representative of the problem
- <u>Always</u> include text to give context



More Information

Photography for diagnosis module: <u>http://www.npdn.org/first_detector_training_modules</u>

http://www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/infd-924gbs



www.plantsentinel.org

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International Plant Sentinel Network

An early-warning system for future pest threats



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